October 26, 1967

TO: Users of the IS&R System

SUBJECT: Customized Information Service for Individual Users

Recognizing that users of the IS&R System are all busy people, with a minimum of reading time, as well as varying interests in research information, we propose some improvements designed to meet individual needs. These changes can be instituted within the present cost structure.

The present Current Awareness Bulletin appears to be attempting to satisfy too many diverse interests. Thus, the Bulletin now provides too much information for some users, too little for others. In view of this, we propose certain changes to allow those users who want extensive coverage of particular subject areas to get it. Users who want different or minimal coverage could get that. Coverage would be tailored to the individual user's needs.

The proposed changes would enable individual users to receive:

1. Full coverage of specific disease or problem areas - By request, individual users would get monthly abstracts of all entries into the system for specific subject areas of interest (eg: laryngeal cancer, adenocarcinoma occupation, diet and/or coronary heart disease, etc.)

2. Highlight coverage of specific disease or problem areas - By request, users would get only monthly abstracts of "major" articles entered into the system for specific areas of special interest. A major article can be defined as an important article because of either adverse or helpful content.

The regular Current Awareness Bulletin would continue to be distributed and would become, in effect, a collection of "major" articles from all important disease or problem areas.

The procedure under which this would be accomplished is called Selective Dissemination of Information.

How it would work:

Each user will be asked to specify major areas of interest to him, those for which he would like to receive all system entries, and those where major items only will suffice.

Assume a user decides he wants everything on "emphysema." A user profile would be developed to include all terms in the Kwik lists pertaining to this area. Each month this user profile would be searched by the computer to pull out documents entered during the previous month. The user would get the results of this search of his profile in the form of abstracts, once a month. Individual profiles can, of course, be updated as necessary to reflect changing needs.

2010008149

Source: https://www.industrydocuments.ucsf.edu/docs/tffj0000

We believe these refinements will more closely suit varying individual needs than the present bulletin does, since individual interests seem to vary widely.

You will be contacted shortly by the Project Officer or 3i to develop your profile of interests.

20100081 50

30

Source: https://www.industrydocuments.ucsf.edu/docs/tffj0000